

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Richard Manieri 615 Chestnut Street
Direct Dial: (215) 861-8525 Suite 1250
Facsimile: (215) 861- 8509 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476
E-mail Address: richard.manieri@usdoj.gov (215) 861-8200

*****PRESS CONFERENCE ADVISORY*****

U.S. ATTORNEY PATRICK MEEHAN TO HOST AWARENESS FORUM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Who:** **Patrick L. Meehan**, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Justice
John Torres, Deputy Assistant Director for Smuggling & Public Safety, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Steven Wagner, Director, Trafficking in Persons Program, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Bob Zimmerman, Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Monsignor Timothy Senior, Secretary of Catholic Human Services, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- When:** **Tuesday, April 20, 2004, 11:00 a.m.** (Press Conference) followed by remarks from Alex Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights
- Where:** Horizons Ballroom, Wyndham Franklin Plaza, 17th & Race Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.
- What:** Human Trafficking is a form of modern day slavery, in which the victims are forced, defrauded, or coerced into working in brutal and inhumane working conditions, sometimes for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Many of the victims are women and children. Traffickers prey on the poor and powerless, particularly illegal immigrants who often do not have social safety nets.

This program, "Identifying and Responding to the Problem of Human Trafficking," brings federal and local law enforcement agencies and social service providers together for training and to strengthen relationships among those various agencies.

The Department of Health and Human Services selected Philadelphia, along with two other cities, to conduct a community outreach campaign called "Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking."